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# Central China Record

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CENTRAL CHINA MISSION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vol. 7. No. 7

NANKING

July-August, 1904

*According to your faith be it unto you*

Prayer-cycle of our Mission. 1 Sam. 12:23

MONDAY, CHINKIANG

THURSDAY, KIUKIANG

TUESDAY, NANKING

FRIDAY, NANCHANG

WEDNESDAY, WUHU

SATURDAY, CHIENCHANG

SUNDAY, THE ENTIRE MISSION

One of the houses of our Mission stands at the crossing of the roads. These roads are usually pretty well lined with Chinese traffic. Facing the larger of these roads is the missionaries' study with a large double window in the second story giving full view of the roads as well as a large school compound directly opposite. A large variety of sights and sounds, Chinese, come in through that window and the missionary occupant has promised to give us each month a short sketch of what he sees and hears. These should be interesting to all who are interested in Chinese life. The first of these appears in our present number, and one will follow each month under the general head, "Sights and Sounds from my Study Window."

## The Training of Native Helpers

In the May number of the Record, Bro. E. James emphasized the need of libraries for our native helpers. In the present number one of the native helpers, gives in the best English he can master, his ideas as to how native helpers can be, and ought to be trained.

Of this brother Wang the best reports are given by his presiding elder, both in regard to the nature and amount of his work. To put his Presiding Elder's report very mildly we may say that Bro. Wang does more than any other two men on his district, and yet he is not on appointment, but is only a learner, a "student helper" who goes with the Presiding Elder on his journeys and studies, and reads, and preaches,

and sells books, and walks long distances, and takes his share of all the burdens. With a heart conscious of the needs, with a fair knowledge of those who have already been chosen, and of the utter inadaptability of many of them, he sends out this word, "Be careful in selecting men."

In writing to one who had been a classmate of his, Bro. Wang says, "You ask what I have been reading," and in reply he enumerates a large number of books, all of value, and showing a nice discrimination in choice.

One brother puts in a plea for libraries for our native brethren; another brother shows most clearly where at least one library should be placed.

It is absolutely essential that our native brethren find something to fill their hearts and minds to replace the small ideas of the spiritual life which China furnishes to her children.

Some think that these ideas are to be corrected and widened by getting out among the people, more or less under the supervision of a foreign missionary, and by throwing oneself heartily into the work of saving souls.

It is a serious question whether, without taking a native brother absolutely out of his old environment, for a time, and placing him under new and favorable conditions, any one of them can have his old ideas clarified, and broader and deeper principles instilled into his very life. This is not a theoretical question it is a most practical one which can be proved or disproved in a very short period. We must somewhere create a desire for these libraries. One's soul must begin

to hunger and thirst for more—even though that more may still be somewhat indefinite—before a library in any parsonage will be of any more value than the paper upon which the books are printed.

But let this call for libraries, small though they may be, be kept before us.

Let us provide, from private funds if necessary, all the suitable books which any native brother will read and digest.

W. F. W.

### **The Girls' Boarding School Nanking**

Our school has had an enrollment of fifty-one this Spring term and it has been very gratifying to us that we have had pupils from nearly all the out stations. We have the same efficient corps of native teachers that we had when Mrs. Davis left. One of them was married at Chinese New Year to a medical student in Dr. Beebe's Hospital but she has continued her work in the school. Mrs. Rowley Wilson has taken entire charge of the musical department, and has helped with some of the other teaching. Miss Hart has done efficient work in the English and Drawing classes and Miss Crane has given an hour each day to English teaching in addition to her language study. Three events stand out prominently in the past term: First, the gracious revival that we had in April. The Holy Spirit was among us in convicting and converting power. Confessions of sin were made, some who believed in Christ but had not a heart evidence were brought into the light and many received the definite filling of the Holy Ghost. One of the girls said



to me, "I did not know the Holy Spirit could fill my heart as He has done this week." Since the meetings closed we have done some house to house visitation with the girls and we have always received a cordial welcome and had attentive listeners. We celebrated the school's sixteenth birthday, May 2nd, with a picnic; we had a merry time. I am sure many of the girls realized something of what it meant to them personally that Mrs. Adeline Smith had made possible the opening of our school in Nanking. One day in June came the word from over the sea that Mrs. Davis could never return. It was hard to tell the pupils for they loved her and their sorrow was genuine. A beautiful memorial service was held in the school and the testimony of all was, "She tried to teach us to be true."

Mrs. Davis had hoped to interest some one in the home land in our need for a new building but we fear her illness prevented it. We are overcrowded now and with the increasing demand for girls education we should not delay enlarging our plant, and we are praying that this our pressing need may be supplied.

E. C. S.

### Nanking University

On July 15th, the University closed twenty weeks of consecutive work. This has been the first half of our college year and in many respects it has been one of the most successful half years in the history of the institution.

Our shortage in teachers has taxed everyone to his and her limit of endurance. Dr. Stuart has been home on furlough, and Mr. Bowen

had to leave for his furlough nearly two months before the close of the term, but those who were left responded readily to special needs, and neither work nor workers have suffered materially.

In the Preparatory School most efficient service has been done by Miss Rosamond Hart who has attracted to her various classes nearly all the students. A thoroughly trained teacher herself, she has given her best without stint. The students in appreciation for her work presented her with a beautiful banner on which was inscribed characters indicative of her tireless energy in her work.

In the college department the work has favorably progressed. One student has finished his course and two others will have finished by the end of the present school year.

The students in the medical department have been finishing their training in the hospitals in Nanking, Wuhu, and Hwai Yuen, and several of these will be ready for their diplomas at the close of the present school year.

Brother Rowe in the theological school has been giving the students practical as well as theoretical training, and we expect to see several others ready for their field training at the next Annual Meeting.

Those who have already gone out have been doing very satisfactory work. Bro. L. Wang, who has been writing for the *Record* some of his impressions and experiences, is one of these. Having been placed under the direct training of the missionary in charge he feels that that is an essential part of a young preachers training before he is placed upon his own responsibility.

## CENTRAL CHINA RECORD

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The religious interest in the school has been steadily growing, and deepening. As our readers already know a glorious revival stirred the hearts of all in our boys' and girls' schools, and the result of that revival is still making itself felt in our midst.

The latter half of our year comes with a good deal of promise. Dr. Stuart is to return, and under his helpful leadership the University will undoubtedly go forward with renewed strength in its process of development.

W. F. W.

## Be Careful in Selecting Men

Men should be selected with great care, especially the men who are going into the evangelistic work. We should never, merely to satisfy a personal desire, choose those who are to enter into this most important work. There are so many temptations that attract men from this

branch of work, that unless they have more than a human call, they themselves will fall into temptation, the people will be deceived, and the church will eat a good deal of bitterness. Several precautions must be taken when we are choosing some one for the work of saving souls. These are as follows:

1. Our own secret and special prayers must be humbly and faithfully offered that God may give us wisdom to know the right man, and if he is trustworthy.

2. Strict examination of his qualifications can never be neglected. There are three kinds of qualifications, such as the educational, intellectual, and spiritual. The most important of these three is the spiritual. When a person is truly converted he will not feel proud of his own ability but feel himself worthy of nothing. He will often cast himself at the feet of the Christ and ask Him to abide in him. This is the man whom we need and expect to have.

3. He should be given opportunity for practical experience. The surroundings in the schools are far different from those outside, therefore he who is going to work among the raw heathen must needs have at least two years good experience in their midst. During this time he should have no burden nor any appointment to work by himself, but he should be sent to some presiding elder or some evangelist to be a student helper. The physician who is to minister to the physical life must have experience in the hospital. How much more the physician for the spiritual life ought to learn in direct contact with those to whom he is to minister.

L. WANG.



### A Military Review

On the twenty-first of June, a grand review of the troops stationed in Kiukiang was held but a short distance from our compound, on the soldiers' drill-ground. For months the soldiers had been planning and working toward this end, putting forth their best efforts to have the review a success.

The parade ground is a low, level piece of land bounded on one side by a lane, on another by the barracks and the stand which had been erected for the Governor of the province and the other honored guests, and on the third by a hill, the slope of which served splendidly for the spectators. The city wall, winding about as these Chinese walls will, commands the other side, and was also a favorite resort for those who wished to view the drill.

Long before the reasonable rising hour, the people were hurrying from all directions, eager to find the best possible places for themselves and friends, and the constant buzz of conversation sounded as if all the bees around Kiukiang had suddenly taken it upon themselves to swarm on one tree. When we looked out from our veranda at half past six that morning, the hill-side overlooking the drill-ground (some two or three of our American city blocks distant from us) was blue with Chinese. We have often heard young America tell of some one who "painted the town red;" but owing to the preponderance of blue in the Chinese dress, a mass of Chinese invariably looks blue. Whatever the national color of China, the popular color is blue. And so, on this day, although many of the girls had on their gala attire of red pantalettes and finely embroidered

gowns, they all helped to paint the hillside and the city wall not red, but blue.

The school boys and girls had been allowed the forenoon to see the parade; and shortly after morning prayers we sallied forth to see the sights. Taking our stand first on the city wall, we watched the thousands upon thousands of people. Many had been there since early morning, and as many more were coming. Standing as onlookers, we saw one man walking slowly past, supporting a woman, evidently his wife, who, on account of her small feet, was unable to hurry over the uneven ground, and was forced to steady herself by resting her hand on his shoulder. We often hear of the unkindness and positive harshness of the Chinese husbands, but this case stands, not as an isolated one, but as an example of a certain type of Chinese men who could easily put many a husband of more enlightened nations to shame. For it certainly takes patience when out for a holiday, to be constantly forced to fix one's pace to that of a helpless woman with small feet.

Going down from the wall, we turned into the street running in front of the barracks and "grand stand." Everywhere men and boys passed through the crowd, selling green peaches, unripe plums, and raw cucumbers. People in the homelands sometimes wonder why God permits great pestilences, such as cholera, to sweep through this land, as they so frequently do; but those of us who have seen the heedless way in which many of the Chinese eat raw and unripe fruit, often wonder that they escape so easily.

At one place a man had put up a "soda fountain," with two or three glass tumblers and a few

bottles as his stock in trade. The "fountain" was a narrow table with a rock attached to one side to support a wooden box which served as tank and was tapped by means of a couple of faucets. The man was evidently doing a flourishing business.

After a long delay, during which the soldiers had remained drawn up in line on the field, the Governor finally appeared, and the review began. But of this there is little to relate, except that it was the usual round of manoeuvres, marches and countermarches accompanied by the usual abominable music of the band. The Chinese army, as represented by the Kiukiang regiments, has not grasped the idea that the band is any thing but an additional noise in the tumult of war. So it happened that the whole line started out in perfect step—with their officers, but not with the music,—and before they reached the opposite side of the field, each company was keeping its own pace, and that not very perfectly.

Any one who wishes to see John Chinaman in his gala attire and holiday mood should not miss such an opportunity as this. It is a lesson in itself; and we all voted, that by far the more interesting review was the one we held, when we reviewed the masses of the people and left the soldiers to the good graces of the Governor.

S. H. H.

### The Girls' School Kiukiang

The closing exercises of the Girls' School at Kiukiang were in the nature of a surprise and farewell to Miss Howe, who on that day, in closing the school, in a sense made

her farewell to the work of Kiukiang, as she takes up next fall's work at Nanchang.

The exercises naturally took on the form of reminiscence where some of the progress of the work since 1872, when Miss Howe first came to Kiukiang, was shown by present and former pupils of the school. One spoke for the Girls' School, to which she has given many years of work; another for the Woman's School in whose work she has shared; and another for the Hospital whose building she superintended and whose doctors have been distinctly known as "Miss Howe's doctors," since they were taken by her to America for their medical course. Of the present pupils were those who personated the Chinese girls of thirty-two years ago, with their doubt and dislike of the foreigners and yet their curiosity to know more about them and their school. Others personated their own time, the contrast in costume making more vivid the greater contrast in the attitude of the outside girls toward the school and the actual power of the pupils of the present compared with those of the past who had only just begun to learn. The little ones also brought their good wishes and farewell in song and poem.

In the closing speech, with words that brought tears to the eyes of those who listened, Mrs. Mei offered to Miss Howe repeated assurance of the love and remembrance of her pupils and friends, and in their name presented her with several beautiful and valuable gifts. Tea was served to the invited guests, and later the day closed with the school girls' "last day" feast, at which as many as possible of the former pupils were present.



Nearly thirty-two years of mission work, the greater part of it done in Kiukiang; one of the pioneer missionaries of our Woman's Board in Central China; ready now to open up new work in a new field—a short history, but how much it means of service! How many of us will be granted to give and to receive its equivalent?

T. M. P.

### Notes from Kiukiang

Dr. Mary Stone spent some weeks in Shanghai during the month of July, awaiting her sister Anna, who was delayed in Japan on her way home from the U.S., where she has been attending school and also representing the needs of our field before our friends in the homeland.

Miss Dreibelbies is spending the summer months at her bungalow in the foothills of the Kuling mountains, whither she has taken the orphans entrusted to her care. Anyone who has seen her with these little ones, knows that she is eminently fitted for such work, for she gives them, not only her time and strength, but her heart as well.

Miss Anna Stone arrived at Shanghai in the latter half of July, and is preparing to take up active work as soon as the summer's heat is past. We are glad for this addition to our little band, for the work in Kiukiang is but poorly manned to carry out even what has been begun, without extending our efforts into new channels. We all realize that China can, in the end, be saved only through the direct efforts of her own people, and every addition to the staff of strong, reliable Christian Chinese, educated and equipped for the work of saving souls, is a

source of great thankfulness to all who are praying for the coming of God's kingdom in this land.

The Wm. Nast College closed its first term on the 28th of June, ready to resume work in the fall. There has been a good spirit manifested among the boys, and much profitable work has been done. A great majority of the students are Christians, and many are manifesting a great desire to show forth their love for God in winning others to accept the Saviour.

The estimate meeting of the Central China M. E. Mission was held in Kuling, Aug. 3-5. The report of that meeting will occupy the best part of our next number.

It is with deep regret that we have had to lose Dr. Beebe from our number just at this time, partly because we need him here, but more because of the circumstances of his recall. A cablegram from the Mission Rooms at New York called him home on account of serious illness in his family. We sympathize with him during all these weeks of uncertainty, and trust that the kind hand of Providence will restore the sick before he reaches home.

Letters have been received from Bro. Bowen which speak of delightful conditions which prevailed practically all of the way home. He has also been keeping in mind our need of reinforcements and unless something unforeseen prevents we will have at least one addition to our number before the close of the present year.

Dr. Geo. A. Stuart who has been at home on furlough during the past year, sails from San Francisco

via S.S. Siberia Aug. 30. It is also understood that W. C. Longden, and C. F. Kupfer will return in the early fall. A hearty welcome is extended to them all.

### Lights and Sounds from my Study Window

#### A General View

A ten foot wall surrounds my compound. The western side of this wall is almost directly under my window. Beyond the wall twenty feet distant is another wall of the same height which surrounds a large missionary school compound. Between these two walls runs a large road. The N.W. corner of my house compound is directly opposite the N.E. corner of the school compound and along the northern side of both compounds runs another smaller road forming at this place a "four-corners."

The school campus is in full view of my window. Several large buildings adorn it. There are many trees, a little lake (or large pond for it is stagnant), tennis courts, and well kept lawns, all of which make the view attractive and when I see for ten months of the year a hundred or more students coming and going within, and think of the possibilities inherent in such an undertaking, I rejoice that the church of Christ is making Christian education possible to the boys of this dark land.

As I look to the right I look up through a little valley filled with rice paddies now, but a month or two ago with wheat. And still later I will probably see a crop of beans growing on the same plot of ground. Three crops a year is not at all uncommon.

As I look beyond the school compound and beyond this little valley my view is shut in by the surrounding hills. Directly in front, to the west, at the foot of the hills, a half mile distant, is a temple with the front walls painted a glowing red. To the right, but still in front, a mile or more distant, the hill is crowned with what looks like a summer house, what the unsophisticated, might call a big band stand. It is a "T'ing tsz" in the midst of a camp of Chinese soldiers. Just below that camp, but hidden from my view, is the place where we lay those we fain would keep, but who have entered into rest.

All the hills round about are covered with Chinese graves, of all shapes and sizes. There are long mounds; round mounds, with an inverted cone of earth crowning their top; horseshoe shape mounds, making a family burying ground, with several graves within. Those who have but lately reached the field call this the Chinese cemetery.

Would that they had one! Or, shall I say, would that they had a smaller one. They have one; it is all-out-doors.

F.

#### A Promising Meeting

At Nanchang, a few days ago, there was a gathering of persons, from which and from whom we hope to realize some good. Dr. Kahn of the W. F. M. S. is carrying on medical work for women and children in native, rented buildings. For a time she occupied and worked in a building exceedingly unsuitable for work, and unsafe and undesirable to live in. But even thus her services are opening the way into the best as well as the poorest homes in



the city. Recently the Dr. has surrendered that unsuitable place, and rented another building, better, and more sanitary. But still it is a rented building, adapted only for residence and dispensary work, not for hospital purposes.

The gentry have become interested in this work, and several subscription books are out among the well-to-do. Some time ago a few hundreds of dollars were secured. Some of these gentry suggested to the doctor the advisability of making a feast and inviting a company of influential people. So it was arranged, and finally it was desired, on their part that the feast be of foreign style. So invitations were issued to about a dozen of the gentry influential in various ways. The feast was given in the home of the W. F. M. S., and ten Chinese gentlemen seemed to enjoy it in various degrees.

Several of these men have figured in the reform attempts, and are now suffering for their loyalty to the Emperor, and their desire for advancement and improvement of their people. Though deprived of office, and politically dead, they nevertheless retain a measure of influence in the affairs of the city. They have means of their own; and furthermore, there are certain funds, raised for floods, famine, and other charitable purposes, largely at their disposal.

Though the original proposition for the feast came from them, and they knew the object of it, after dinner Miss Howe made a brief statement of the case, and asked

them to speak their minds on this subject. It was proposed to raise \$10,000, for the grounds and hospital buildings; the apparatus and supplies to be extra. Several of the gentlemen expressed their favor of the plan, and said "we will all help in this good business." They did not then talk fully, rather waiting for a meeting of themselves alone. Next morning I went with Misses Howe and Ogborn to look over a proposed site for the hospital and residence. A piece of ground near one of the city gates, within the city, and forty minutes walk from our residences, is available. Roughly measuring, perhaps 500 ft. by 250 ft., for 1000 strings of cash. But one of the gentlemen had said "we will give you a piece of ground" referring to another piece. So between all of this, we believe we shall soon make some kind of a start for the Woman's Hospital.

There is much need of this work. Dr. Charles, too, is doing such work for men as can be done without hospital or dispensary. He is almost constantly besieged. This summer he is building a dispensary, and we believe that, as the city and country feel the good effects of this work, in a few years they will respond with a very substantial assistance for the General Hospital proposed under the control of the General Board. A city of a million, the capital and in the centre of a rich and populous province. A more needy and suitable place would be hard to find.

E. J.

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